

**STANLY COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 3, 2017**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Bill Lawhon, Chairman
Joseph Burleson, Vice Chairman
Scott Efird
Janet K. Lowder
Gene McIntyre
Ashley Morgan
Matthew Swain

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

Andy Lucas, County Manager
Jenny Furr, County Attorney
Tyler Brummitt, Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The Stanly County Board of Commissioners (the “Board”) met in regular session on Monday, April 3, 2017 in the Commissioners Meeting Room, Stanly Commons. Chairman Lawhon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Commissioner Efird giving the invocation and leading the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL / ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Commissioner Swain requested that agenda item 8(B) – 2016 Child Fatality Prevention Team Activity Summary be pulled from the consent agenda and added as item # 9 for discussion. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Lowder and passed by unanimous vote.

ITEM # 1 – PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 2017 AS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Presenter: Darla Smith of Esther House

Ms. Smith provided a brief review of Esther House’s mission followed by a request for the Board’s consideration in adopting the proclamation.

Commissioner Efird moved to approve the proclamation as requested and was seconded by Vice Chairman Burleson. The motion carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

See Exhibit A
Proclamation
Sexual Assault Awareness Month April 2017

ITEM # 2 – BOARD OF EQUALIZATION & REVIEW – RESIGNATION OF BOARD MEMBER JERRY ALMOND

Presenter: Clinton Swaringen, Tax Administrator

Due to the recent resignation of Jerry Almond, it was requested the Board accept his resignation and decide whether to continue with a four (4) member board or appoint a fifth member to serve the remainder of Mr. Almond's term which expires December 31, 2017. Mr. Swaringen stated that although a minimum of three (3) members is required to conduct a meeting, he normally prefers to have a full board in place. However, this year presents a different situation due to it being a tax revaluation year. He stated concerns that a new member may have difficulty understanding the appeals that will be presented to the board due to inexperience. With that being said, he left it to the Board's discretion as to whether or not to appoint a new member now, or wait until December and allow the remaining board members to handle the appeals that come before the board.

After a brief discussion, Vice Chairman Burleson moved to accept Mr. Almond's resignation and delay the appointment of a fifth member until year end. Commissioner McIntyre seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

ITEM # 3 – CONTRACT AWARD FOR THE COUNTY'S FY 2016-17 AUDIT

Presenter: Toby Hinson, Finance Director

The Finance Office received a quote of \$55,000 from Martin Starnes & Associates to provide audit services for the county for FY 2016-17 which includes a 12.25% increase over the previous year. Mr. Hinson noted that the main reason for the increase is the state auditor's requirement for a larger number of DSS case files to be compliance tested thus resulting in an increase in the number of hours it takes to perform the audit. A second quote of \$48,500 was received from Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Company of Whiteville, NC. The quote was questioned to make sure that no additional fees would be charged for the additional work required to test DSS case files. Mr. Hinson stated he was told that the quote of \$48,500 included this work and is the final price.

After a period of questions, Vice Chairman Burleson moved to award the audit contract to Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Company at the price of \$48,500. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Morgan and carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

ITEM # 4 – NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER PROCLAMATION

Presenter: Andy Lucas, County Manager

For Board consideration, the County Manager presented the proclamation declaring May 4, 2017 as the 2017 National Day of Prayer.

Commissioner McIntyre moved to approve the proclamation and was seconded by Vice Chairman Burleson. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**See Exhibit B
Proclamation
2017 National Day of Prayer**

ITEM # 5 – BROWNS HILL ROAD INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY PURCHASE

Presenter: Andy Lucas, County Manager

With the County's purchase of 76.03 acres of property on Browns Hill Road for an industrial park development scheduled to close on April 7, 2017, it was requested the Board approve budget amendment #2017-37 to appropriate \$1,000,000 from General Fund balance to pay the initial installment for the purchase. The remaining \$444,570 will be paid in four (4) equal annual installments of \$111,142.50 beginning July 15, 2017.

With no questions, Commissioner Efirm moved to approve the budget amendment. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Swain and carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

ITEM # 6 – ENGINEERING DESIGN AUTHORIZATION & BUDGET AMENDMENT – BROWNS HILL ROAD PROJECT

Presenter: Andy Lucas, County Manager

In order to move forward with the industrial park development project, it was recommended the Board authorize staff to enter into an engineering design services contract with Chambers Engineering. The total estimated cost is \$155,000 for the design and \$55,000 for survey and other related work with the cost being split 50/50 with the General Fund and Utilities Fund. It was requested the Board consider approval of the attached budget amendment and authorize staff to enter into a contract for design services with Chambers Engineering.

Commissioner Efirm made the motion to approve the budget amendment and contract with Chambers Engineering as requested. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McIntyre and passed by unanimous vote.

ITEM # 7 – DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE SHERIFF’S OFFICE PAY & INCENTIVES

Presenter: Commissioner Morgan

Commissioner Morgan introduced the item and gave a brief review of the information included in the handouts related to the pay scales and incentives for public safety employees in the local municipalities and surrounding counties. He encouraged the Board to consider approving an incentive program which will help the Sheriff’s Office to be more competitive when recruiting new employees and aid with retention as well. Commissioner Morgan stated that he wanted to have this information available in order for the Board to be prepared to discuss it during the upcoming budget workshops.

Commissioner McIntyre agreed with Commissioner Morgan’s comments stating that he has spoken with Sheriff Burris as well noting the high turnover rate in the past year due to employees leaving to go work in other counties for higher pay and incentives. He agreed that it needs to be addressed during budget discussions.

Vice Chairman Burleson agreed with previous comments and Commissioner Morgan’s proposal for an incentive program. He also suggested that the Board have it apply to all county departments and not just the Sheriff’s Office adding that the Board understands the importance of all county employees and the work they do.

Commissioner Swain agreed that an incentive program should be considered and that he had spoken with the County Manager to see if information can be obtained to compare Stanly County’s departments to other benchmark counties to ensure employees are receiving the best that can be offered.

The discussion continued with questions concerning the pay structure of the Sheriff’s Office with the County Manager and Sheriff Burris responding. During this time, Sheriff Burris also addressed the Board to speak in favor of the proposed pay study and incentive program as a means to help with employee recruitment and retention.

With no further discussion, Vice Chairman Burleson moved to direct staff to prepare an incentive pay structure for the Board’s review and consideration over the next few weeks. Commissioner Swain seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

For clarification, the County Manager asked if the proposed incentive structure would apply to the Sheriff’s Office only or to other county departments as well. Vice Chairman Burleson responded that his motion was for the Sheriff’s Office only, but he would be willing to entertain an incentive plan for all departments.

That being said, Commissioner Swain moved to reconsider the former motion to include all county departments. Vice Chairman Burleson seconded the motion which carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

ITEM # 8 – CONSENT AGENDA

- A.** Minutes – Regular meeting of March 20, 2017.
- B.** Library – Request approval of budget amendment # 2017-36.

Commissioner Efird moved to approve the consent agenda as amended previously and was seconded by Commissioner Morgan. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

ITEM # 9 – 2016 CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION TEAM ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Presenter: Commissioner Swain

Commissioner Swain stated the reason he requested the report be pulled from the consent agenda was to give it the dignity it deserves. He noted that in 2016, the report states that nine (9) children died in Stanly County, several prior to birth, one due to undetermined causes and one (1) due to drowning. He encouraged everyone to be cognizant of their children with the summer months coming and to bring awareness to the report.

Commissioner Swain then moved to accept the report as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Burleson and passed by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

BOARD COMMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Vice Chairman Burleson wished the Carolina Tarheels the best of luck in the NCAA Tournament Championship game later that evening.

Commissioner Efird encouraged everyone to attend the Veterans Dedication Service this coming Saturday, April 8th in Locust.

Commissioner Morgan noted that the next Regulatory Referendum Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 25th at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room.

Chairman Lawhon noted appreciation of those in the audience who attended the meeting and thanked the Sheriff and his employees for their hard work.

CLOSED SESSION

Vice Chairman Burleson moved to recess the meeting into closed session to consult with the county attorney in accordance with G. S. 143-318.11(a)(3). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Efird and carried by unanimous vote at 7:55 p.m.

ADJOURN

With no further discussion, Vice Chairman Burleson moved to adjourn and was seconded by Commissioner McIntyre. Motion carried by 7 – 0 vote at 8:15 p.m.

W. D. (Bill) Lawhon, Jr.

Tyler Brummitt, Clerk